



General Management Plan Newsletter

Issue 1 - Spring 2004

General Management Plan to Provide Long Term Direction

The development of a general management plan for Fort Raleigh will lay a foundation for the long term direction of the National Historic Site. A general management plan (GMP) provides a vision for the future of a park and a practical framework for decision making. It represents the broadest level of planning conducted by the National Park Service. The intention of a GMP is to provide guidance for making informed decisions about the future of the park and specify resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved. A GMP provides guidance on how to best protect park resources, how to provide for quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. It involves identifying goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzing existing conditions and future possibilities, and determining the best course of action to accomplish these goals. A GMP does not include facility design, resolve all issues, or guarantee funding for the park. Rather, it describes the general path the National Park Service intends to follow in managing sites such as

Fort Raleigh over a 15 to 20 year period. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the GMP. The GMP and EIS will identify significant issues and concerns facing management of the park, present a reasonable range of management alternatives, and analyze the effects of the alternatives. Public involvement is a key component in the preparation of the GMP and EIS. This newsletter provides information on the planning process and how you can be involved in that process.

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Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) has begun the development of a new *General Management Plan* for Fort Raleigh National Historic Site that will guide park management for the next 15-20 years. All national parks are required to have an approved general management plan. During the development of this plan National Historic Site staff, along with our neighbors, visitors, and interested agencies and organizations, will examine long-range goals and management issues, and chart a course for the future.

Fort Raleigh has not had a comprehensive plan since its 1964 master plan. In addition, a 1990 Act of Congress expanded the park boundary and broadened its purpose. Therefore, a general management plan is needed not only to provide a vision for long-term park management, but to set the direction for subsequent and more narrowly focused planning efforts as well. However, the plan will not include specific facility designs, resolve all park issues, or guarantee funding for the actions proposed in the approved plan.

I invite your participation in developing this plan. During this effort there will be a number of opportunities for you to contribute your ideas and concerns about the park and help shape its future. Newsletters with comment forms will be distributed to the mailing list and posted on the Internet throughout the project. There will be public workshops and meetings at key stages. And, when the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* is produced, you will be invited to review and provide comments.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lawrence A. Belli
Superintendent, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
Outer Banks Group

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site - A Brief History

Under the sponsorship of Sir Walter Raleigh, English settlers established two colonies on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, in 1585 and 1587, respectively. The colonists from the first settlement returned to England, while the men, women, and children from the second settlement simply disappeared, thus becoming known to history as the “lost colony.”

Many generations accepted the northern shore of Roanoke Island as the location for the famous “Cittie of Raleigh.” The site was thus the focus of various commemorative efforts over the years. In the 1890s, the Roanoke Colony Memorial Association (RCMA) was formed to preserve the area.

During the 1930s, the State of North Carolina administered the site as a state park and developed a highly conjectural reconstruction of log structures as a New Deal work project. During the same period, local enthusiasts formed the Roanoke Island Historical Association (RIHA), which took over the preservation and commemorative work of the RCMA. RIHA's main purpose, however, soon became the production of an outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, which was first held in 1937 at the state park's Waterside Theatre.



In 1941, at the urging of RIHA and the state, Fort Raleigh was designated as a national historic site and placed under NPS management, although World War II delayed much activity. During the 1950s, the Park Service embarked upon a major nationwide development program to meet the recreational needs of post-war America. This program led to the expansion of Fort Raleigh's boundaries and the construction of new facilities in the 1960s. Finally, a 1990 act of Congress led to the acquisition of additional park land to protect the rural character of northern Roanoke Island and lessen the financial stress on RIHA, which owned several tracts of that land. The same legislation also expanded the park's interpretive mission.

Purpose and Significance of Fort Raleigh

Purpose statements provide the foundation for a park's management and use and reaffirm the reasons why it was established as a unit of the National Park System. They provide a rationale against which alternatives for managing the park can be measured. Finally, they help neighbors,

visitors, and other users understand the framework in which managers make decisions.

Significance statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the park and express the importance of the park to our natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements describe the park's distinctiveness and help place it in regional and international contexts. Understanding the



park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve resources and values for future generations.

The following are the purpose and significance statements for Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

The purpose of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is:

- Preserve and interpret the first English colony in the New World and the history of the Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans who lived on Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is significant because:

- The site encompasses 513 acres, preserving known locations and portions of England's first attempts at settlement in the New World.
- This site also preserves the cultural heritage of the Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans who have lived on Roanoke Island.
- Roanoke Island was strategically important during the Civil War.
- A pilot Freedmen's village was established on Roanoke Island.
- Pioneer radio experiments were conducted in the area by Reginald Fessenden.
- Fort Raleigh is the site of the nation's first outdoor symphonic drama.

General Management Planning in the National Park System

Park planning is a decision-making process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision-making for national parks. A GMP is required for each national park system unit and is intended to set the park's management direction for the next 20 years. A core team of park staff and NPS planning professionals is coordinating the GMP for Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Participation by the full park staff, park partners and neighbors, and the general public will be crucial to the plan's success.

Planning in the national park system is organized around three primary questions:

WHY was this park (national monument, national historic site, etc.) established (what is its overall mission)?

WHAT is the vision for the future of this place (what kind of place do we want it to be)?

HOW do we accomplish our vision (what actions are needed to achieve the desired future conditions)?



How is the Planning Process Conducted?

There are four basic steps in the general management planning process: “scoping” or information gathering; alternative development and analysis; preparation and publication of a draft GMP and EIS; and revision and publication of a final GMP and EIS.

General management planning is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of park managers and technical experts who consult with other knowledgeable persons inside and outside the National Park Service and with the general public. As a first order of business, the planning team studies the legislation establishing the park, the body of laws and policies directing management of the national park system, park-specific administrative commitments, and special mandates that affect how the park is managed. These

legal and administrative commitments are referred to as *musts* in GMPs.

Once these *musts* are clearly understood, the planning team examines the park's mission, purpose, and significance statements to ensure that they adequately represent legislative intent, provide a sound foundation for decision-making at the park, and reflect the overall values of the general public. In addition, the planning team identifies the range of optional goals and objectives that park staff, technical experts, current and potential visitors, other governmental agencies, traditional users, regional residents,



and the general public want the park to achieve. The broad range of optional goals and objectives are collectively referred to as *wants* in general management planning.

Not surprisingly, some of the things that people want to happen at the park will be mutually compatible and others will not. The most appropriate mix of these “wants” will be determined using the best information available after a systematic analysis of resource values and land uses. Management alternatives will then be developed and potential environmental impacts related to those alternatives will be rigorously explored.

What Are the Major Steps?

Developing a general management plan involves several key steps occurring over a number of years. We are in the initial phases of the project (Steps 1 and 2)—identifying the scope and issues of the planning effort, setting goals, identifying obstacles to realizing those goals, and collecting data. In steps 3 and 4, alternatives to achieving these goals are developed. The relative benefits and impacts (including costs) of each approach are analyzed in an environmental impact statement that is prepared as part of the general management plan. These alternatives and analyses are presented to public for review. In the final steps, after all parties have had an opportunity to comment on the alternatives and the analysis of associated impacts, one alternative is selected and approved for implementation.

STEP	TIME FRAME	ACTIVITY	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION
1	Summer - Winter 2003	Initiate Project The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and begins to establish contacts with the participants	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
2	Winter - Spring 2003-2004	Define Planning Context The team examines <i>why</i> the National Historic Site was established and affirms its mission, purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public input needed to support the planning effort.	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
3	Summer 2004	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives Using staff and public input, the team explores <i>what</i> the National Historic Site's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments
4	Fall 2004	Prepare a Draft Document <i>A Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
5	Fall 2005	Publish Final Document Based on review and comment by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the <i>General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published record of decision.	~ Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.
6	Spring 2006	Implement the Approved Plan After the <i>Record of Decision</i> is issued, and as funding allows, the <i>General Management Plan</i> is implemented.	~ Work with the National Historic Site to implement the plan.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Several convenient ways to communicate and participate in the planning process are described in this newsletter. We encourage you to let us know what you think about Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Written Comments

Your written comments about the general management plans are welcome and can be forwarded via U.S. mail to:

Fort Raleigh General Management Plan Team
National Park Service
100 Alabama Street, 1924 Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Attention: David Libman

We will accept written comments in any form. Handwritten responses are welcome. You can help us better understand your interests and concerns by answering the questions on the general management plan response forms.

Telephone Information

Persons interested in receiving more information about the general management plan process, the latest information on public meetings, or being placed on the newsletter mailing list are encouraged to call the headquarters office for the park at 252-473-2111, extension 122. The planning team strongly encourages persons with specific ideas and comments to submit them in writing so that we can better document and respond to those issues.

Public Meetings

Public meetings were held March 10th and 11th, 2004 at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, North Carolina. When alternative management concepts have been developed and a Draft GMP/EIS is available for public review, additional public meetings will be scheduled and advertised in local media as well as the Fort Raleigh GMP website.

Newsletters

Several newsletters will be published over the course of the project to help people stay informed about public meetings, discussions, draft alternatives and other important information.

You can have your name added to the mailing list by sending a request by U.S. Mail to the address above or by sending an e-mail message to david_libman@nps.gov.

Web Site

A web site for the general management plan is currently under development. When completed, you will be able to link to it by using your web browser to go to the Fort Raleigh's web site (www.nps.gov/fora) and clicking on the general management plan link. There you will find details about the general management plan process, public meetings, newsletters, and other on-line information.